



North Carolina
Chamber
A force for business.

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

October 13, 2011

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am writing you today on behalf of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce to express my support for the AT&T/T-Mobile USA merger and ask that you back it as well.

Our chamber's priority is to strengthen North Carolina's ability to attract, retain and grow jobs. Our infrastructure plays a large role in helping us meet that goal. Broadband technology ranks right up there with energy, transportation, water and sewer as a key element of physical infrastructure necessary to meet our current and future needs.

Businesses cannot survive today without broadband access. Not only is an online presence central to most businesses' strategy, but the Internet also allows businesses to interact with vendors, suppliers, customers, employees and other stakeholders. In this 21st century environment, businesses need to address all of these audiences in order to grow, and business growth is integral to putting North Carolinians and other Americans back to work.

This merger would help deliver critical broadband architecture to all areas of North Carolina. Our rural areas have suffered in recent years because they haven't been able to rely on the availability of wireless broadband. With the approval of this merger, AT&T will invest an additional \$8 billion in wireless broadband infrastructure in order to extend its 4G network to virtually every part of North Carolina, and across the country. This would have an immense impact on business and job creation, particularly, in the rural areas of our state.

I hope you will see the benefits of this merger and grant it your approval.

Sincerely,

Lewis Ebert
President & CEO
North Carolina Chamber of Commerce

CC:
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell